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1808/22-22/12

Jamestown (N.Y.)

James Prendergast  
free library.

Report





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LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS.

# THE JAMES PRENDERGAST FREE LIBRARY

JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK.



EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF LIBRARIAN

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1899.





EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
LIBRARIAN  
OF THE  
James Prendergast Free Library,

For the Year Ending June 30, 1899.

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JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK.

## ***Officers and Trustees.***

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### ***Officers.***

President, SOLOMON JONES.  
Vice President, LUCIUS B. WARNER.  
Secretary, ELEAZER GREEN.  
Treasurer, DANIEL H. POST.

### ***Trustees.***

FRANK E. GIFFORD,      ROBERT N. MARVIN,  
ELEAZER GREEN,      DANIEL H. POST,  
SOLOMON JONES,      WILLIAM H. PROUDFIT,  
                         LUCIUS B. WARNER

### ***Association Committee.***

SOLOMON JONES, *Ex-officio*.  
FRANK E. GIFFORD,      WILLIAM H. PROUDFIT,  
                         ELEAZER GREEN.

### ***Library Committee.***

SOLOMON JONES, *Ex-officio*.  
LUCIUS B. WARNER,      ROBERT N. MARVIN,  
                         DANIEL H. POST.

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### ***Librarian.***

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE.

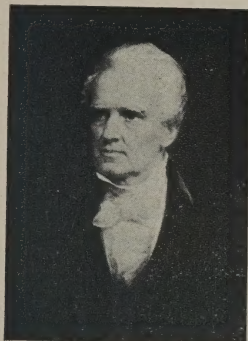
### ***Assistants.***

LUELLA D. FREEMAN.      HATTIE B. LOVE.



027  
J31R  
1899

## *The James Prendergast Free Library.*



*Judge James Prendergast*  
FOUNDER OF JAMESTOWN.

### *Historical.*

The James Prendergast Free Library was established as a memorial to the Hon. James Prendergast, grandson of the founder of Jamestown. He was the son of Alexander T. Prendergast, whose father, Judge James Prendergast, purchased, and in 1811 erected buildings upon the site of Jamestown.

James Prendergast died December 21, 1879, at the age of 31. He left no will, but in his lifetime had requested that a portion of his estate should be used to found and maintain a free public library. This wish was regarded as a sacred trust by his parents, Alexander T. and Mary Norton Prendergast, and by their gifts while living and bequests after death, the land was acquired and the library building erected and supplied with books, pictures and furnishings. The "Prendergast Building," at the corner of Main and Third Streets, was deeded to the Library Association in 1880, and its income is devoted to maintain the Library. The Association was incorporated January 29, 1880. The Library building was completed and dedicated on December 1, 1891, and has since that time

been open for the free use of the public. The value of the Library and its contents, and the land is estimated at present to be \$200,000 and of the "Prendergast Building" \$100,000, a total of \$300,000, devoted to the good of the people of Jamestown by the family.

The members of this family were prominent in this section of the State for public spirit and public services, and the founder of the Library, the Hon. James Prendergast, though dying in the early years of a promising manhood, had represented his District in the State Legislature and was widely popular, in the best sense of the word. He was educated at Yale College and was a lawyer by profession.

### ***The Corporation.***

The James Prendergast Library Association is composed of seven trustees, elected for life, and who choose their successors. Those named in the act of incorporation were William C. J. Hall, Eleazer Green, Robert Newland, Solomon Jones, Lucius B. Warner, Frank E. Gifford and William H. Proudfit. The board of trustees organized by the election of W. C. J. Hall, president; Eleazer Green, secretary; and Robert Newland, treasurer. Mr. Hall continued as president until the time of his death in October, 1887, when Solomon Jones was elected president. Robert N. Marvin was elected to fill the vacancy upon the board of trustees caused by the death of Mr. Hall. Mr. Newland continued as treasurer un-



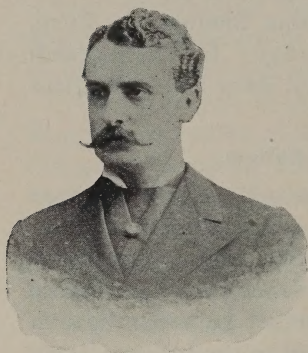
til his death which occurred in October, 1891. Daniel H. Post was elected to fill the vacancy upon the board caused by the death of Mr. Newland, and was also chosen treasurer.

The first librarian was Samuel G. Love, who died November 12, 1893. He was succeeded in December, 1893, by Mary Emogene Hazeltine.

### ***The Art Gallery.***

By the terms of the will of Mary Norton Prendergast, who upon the death of her husband, Alexander T. Prendergast, August 1, 1885, had succeeded to the property, and whose own death occurred December 22, 1889, the sum of \$25,000 was bequeathed to the Library Association to be expended for "oil paintings—works of art," to be placed in the Art Gallery in the Library Building. The family portraits and other paintings from the Prendergast home have a place in the gallery, and in addition to these the sum named in the bequest was expended for thirty paintings representing the modern schools of art. This collection is highly regarded by those qualified to judge.

*To the President and Board of Trustees of the James  
Prendergast Library Association of Jamestown,  
New York.*



*James Prendergast*  
FOUNDER OF THE LIBRARY.

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to present the eighth annual report of the James Prendergast Free Library, for the year ending June 30, 1899.

The meeting of the American Library Association in Lakewood during the first week of July 1898, makes this a notable year in the history of our library. Nearly five hundred librarians were in attendance, making it the most largely attended conference in the twenty-three years of the association. The officers were prominent librarians—the president of the conference has since been appointed librarian of the Congressional Library—the program was one of special interest and importance, and the library exhibit which was more extensive than ever before, was one of the most helpful features of the conference. The cordial hospitality of the citizens of Jamestown was very pleasing to the guests, who enjoyed to the utmost the entertainment provided for them. Jamestown has a larger place in the library world because of the conference, and this library has become widely known to members of the profession.



Within the year, during the second week of May, the Association met again, holding its twenty-first annual conference at Atlanta, where your librarian had the honor to represent this library. It was an important conference, as it was the aim of the association to aid the South in its endeavor to promote library development. The hospitality of Atlanta was abounding, and the conference will long be a pleasant memory.

In former years the library has been closed during the month of July, for the annual inventory and cleaning, and for vacations, but as every year brought an increasing number of visitors, tourists from the lake, or guests of citizens, who were disappointed not to see the library, which is one of the chief points of interest in the city, it was deemed advisable to keep the library open a part of each day during the entire summer. This arrangement proved so much more satisfactory than the old way, that the library committee has decided to keep the library open for the regular hours during the present summer of 1899.

### ***Registration and Circulation.***

The detailed statistics of registration and circulation will be found appended in tabular form, and only a few general results are given under this heading. The registration for the year is 2,322; 846 of this number represent new card holders, and 1,476 are renewals. It is the policy of the library to have applications for drawing books renewed every two years, that

the registration may represent at all times as nearly as possible the actual number of patrons. The re-registration of last year, 1476, shows the renewal of a little more than half of the cards whose privileges had expired, proving that the influence of a library, while in a measure constant, is also always reaching out to new patrons. The entire number of card holders in good and regular standing is 3,375, or one for every eight residents of the city.

The total circulation of books for home use amounts to 62,883 volumes, every book in the circulating department having been lent on an average of seven times. The library was open 304 days during the year, and the average daily circulation was 206. It is gratifying to note an increase of 5,087 volumes over the issue of the previous year, due in part to the growing appreciation of the library by the people of Jamestown, and also to the extra days that the library was open during the summer.

### ***The Books of the Library.***

The total number of books in the library is 14,148. Of this number 8,738 volumes are in the circulating department, 2,936 in the reference department, and 2,475 are government documents.

There have been added during the year 521 volumes, 430 in the circulating department, and 91 in the reference department. In buying new books great care has been taken that no class of books should be purchased at the expense



of other classes, but that so far as funds admitted, all branches should have additions of the best new books, in order that the library should be thoroughly up to date. An examination of tables two and three will show how many books have been added in each class.

Seventy-six books were discarded during the year, being completely worn out. Six books were lost, but five have been satisfactorily accounted for, or paid for.

### ***Pamphlets.***

The collection of pamphlets worthy of preservation, and numbering a thousand, has been classified and bound in volumes, under a system original with this library. The practical, successful working of this plan has proved it to be the solution of a perplexing problem to librarians, and adds to the usefulness of the library.

### ***Binding.***

Many books are re-sewed and repaired in the library, a work which requires much time on the part of the assistants, and in which they have acquired considerable skill. 407 volumes were rebound, at a cost of \$142.47, being an average of 35 cents a volume. When the constant circulation, and the number of years the books have been in use, are taken into account, this is a noteworthy record for the year. Many of the books are circulated 160 times or more, before it is necessary to send them to the bindery, while on the other hand, some of the new books are so poorly sewed and insecurely bound,

that it is necessary to have them rebound after a few times reading. A careful supervision is kept over the books in circulation, to keep them in as good condition as possible.

### ***"Open Shelves."***

One of the most spirited discussions during the recent conference of the American Library Association, held in Atlanta, was on the question of "open shelves," and it was practically the unanimous opinion of those in attendance, that the public should be allowed free access to the books in the circulating department; the reason given was, that the people being able to choose from the books themselves, rather than from a catalogue, select a better class of books for home reading; and also it is believed that the very contact with the books, the opportunity for handling them and examining their contents, is in itself educative.

It is impossible, from the plan of this building, to allow free access to the stack room, but during the past two years, a case in the reference room has been filled with a collection of books selected from all classes in the stack-room, including not only some of the newest and most popular, but also some of the best books. This open-shelf corner has been a source of gratification to many readers who enjoy selecting their own books from the shelves, but to whom, at the same time, a large array of volumes might bring confusion and uncertainty. A selection of juvenile books is also kept on



open shelves in the children's room, which room continues to be a source of delight to the young people.

### ***Reference Department and Reading Room.***

The number of persons using the reading rooms during the year was 24,021; of this number, 16,354 were readers in the main room, 5,759 were readers in the children's room, and 1,908 were students. The usefulness of the reference and reading room cannot, however, be stated in figures, as the books and magazines are freely used by all who wish to consult them, a student frequently using several books to gain the desired information,

Many books in the circulating department, which may perhaps never have been drawn from the library, are found invaluable for reference work. The periodicals on file are liberally used not only for general reading, but also as a most valuable resource in references for debates, special topics and other work with the schools, clubs and individual students. For this same reference work, we have no more valuable aids than the works presented the library by the President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Solomon Jones; these are Larned's History for Ready Reference, in five volumes, and Warner's Library of the World's Best Literature in thirty volumes.

### ***Work for the Study Clubs.***

A large part of the reference work in any library is for the study-clubs, that have organ-

ized in every city and town. During the year this library has aided a baker's dozen of clubs, and our methods in preparing reference lists for club use have been copied by several other libraries.

In the work of the study-clubs as well as in the general work of the library, the traveling libraries issued by the State Library have proved especially useful, and of this service due acknowledgement is made.

### ***The Library as an Art Center.***

It is fitting that the library should be not only the educational center of the town, but its art center as well. The noble building, with its extensive grounds, makes a place of great beauty in the city, while its art gallery is its crowning glory. The collection of pictures is said by eminent critics to form one of the finest small galleries in the country, and that it is appreciated, is attested by the number of visitors during the year, more than five thousand.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge the cordial co-operation of the assistants, and the faithful service of the janitor.

To the members of the Board of Trustees, my appreciation is due for their unvarying courtesy and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE.

Librarian.



## *Tables.*

TABLE 1.

### *The Use of the Library.*

Number of days library was open	-	304
Number of borrowers registered		
New card holders,	- -	846
Renewals	- - -	1,476
Total registration for the year,		2,322
Average daily registration	-	8
Total number borrowers registered	-	3,375
Number volumes lent for home reading		62,883
Average circulation per day	- -	206
Largest circulation per day	- -	563
Smallest circulation per day	- -	75
No. persons using main reading room		16,354
Number children using children's room		5,759
Total number readers	- - -	22,113
Average attendance in reading room,		
per day,	- - - -	72
No. students using reference department		1,908
Average attendance of students, per day		6
Number persons visiting Art Gallery		5,113
Average number visitors, per day	-	16

**TABLE 2.**  
***Books in the Circulating Department***

CLASS	1898	LOST	DISCARDED	ADDED	1899
General Works	503			43	546
Philosophy	171			14	185
Religion	255			0	255
Sociology	340			30	370
Philology	13			1	14
Science	368			16	384
Useful Arts	291			8	299
Fine Arts	234			27	261
Literature	1128			24	1152
Juvenile Classified	285			9	294
Juvenile Fiction	715	2	20	56	749
Fiction	1978	4	56	135	2053
History, including Travel & Biography	2109			67	2176
Total	8390	6	76	430	8738

**TABLE 3.**  
***Books in the Reference Department.***

CLASS	1898	ADDED	1899
General Works	585	46	631
Philosophy	8	0	8
Religion	152	0	152
Sociology	481	9	490
Philology	48	1	49
Science	281	3	284
Useful Arts	279	7	286
Fine Arts	142	0	142
Literature	382	8	390
History	486	17	503
Total	2844	91	2935

SUMMARY	1898.	Lost.	DISCARDED.	ADDED.	1899.
Circulating Dep't	8390	6	76	430	8738
Reference Dep't	2844	0	0	91	2935
Public Documents	2475	0	0	0	2475
	13704	6	76	521	14148

TABLE 4.

*Monthly Circulation of Books for the Year Ending June 30, 1899.*

Subjects	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Total	%
Fiction... ..	2008	2407	2527	3015	3062	2966	3462	3315	3570	3023	2679	2485	34519	.5489
Juv. Fiction....	791	1060	1058	1192	1174	1032	1292	1081	1319	1134	926	869	12928	.2056
History includ.														
Trav. & Biog.	172	219	306	402	507	517	693	697	621	423	254	230	5041	.0802
Literature.....	68	100	150	205	263	223	219	244	257	192	153	90	2164	.0344
Fine Arts .....	28	53	75	113	118	127	125	149	145	79	65	45	1122	.0178
Useful Arts ...	17	28	29	46	47	49	37	63	69	41	40	21	487	.0077
Science .....	39	42	59	62	60	46	70	74	99	52	49	39	69	.0110
Philology .....	00	1	00	00	00	00	2	3	5	5	1	1	18	.0003
Sociology .....	21	33	53	41	52	62	49	66	71	43	38	36	565	.0090
Religion .....	9	16	22	26	44	34	43	39	39	42	19	24	357	.0057
Philosophy .....	10	18	7	11	21	28	19	29	32	20	8	11	214	.0034
General Works	296	293	310	371	459	517	548	571	505	361	282	264	4777	.0760
Totals	3459	4270	4596	5484	5807	5601	6559	6331	6732	5415	4514	4115	62883	1.0000



TABLE 5.

*Receipts and Expenditures.*

The following are the receipts and expenditures from funds passing through the librarian's hands, July 1, 1898 to June 30, 1899.

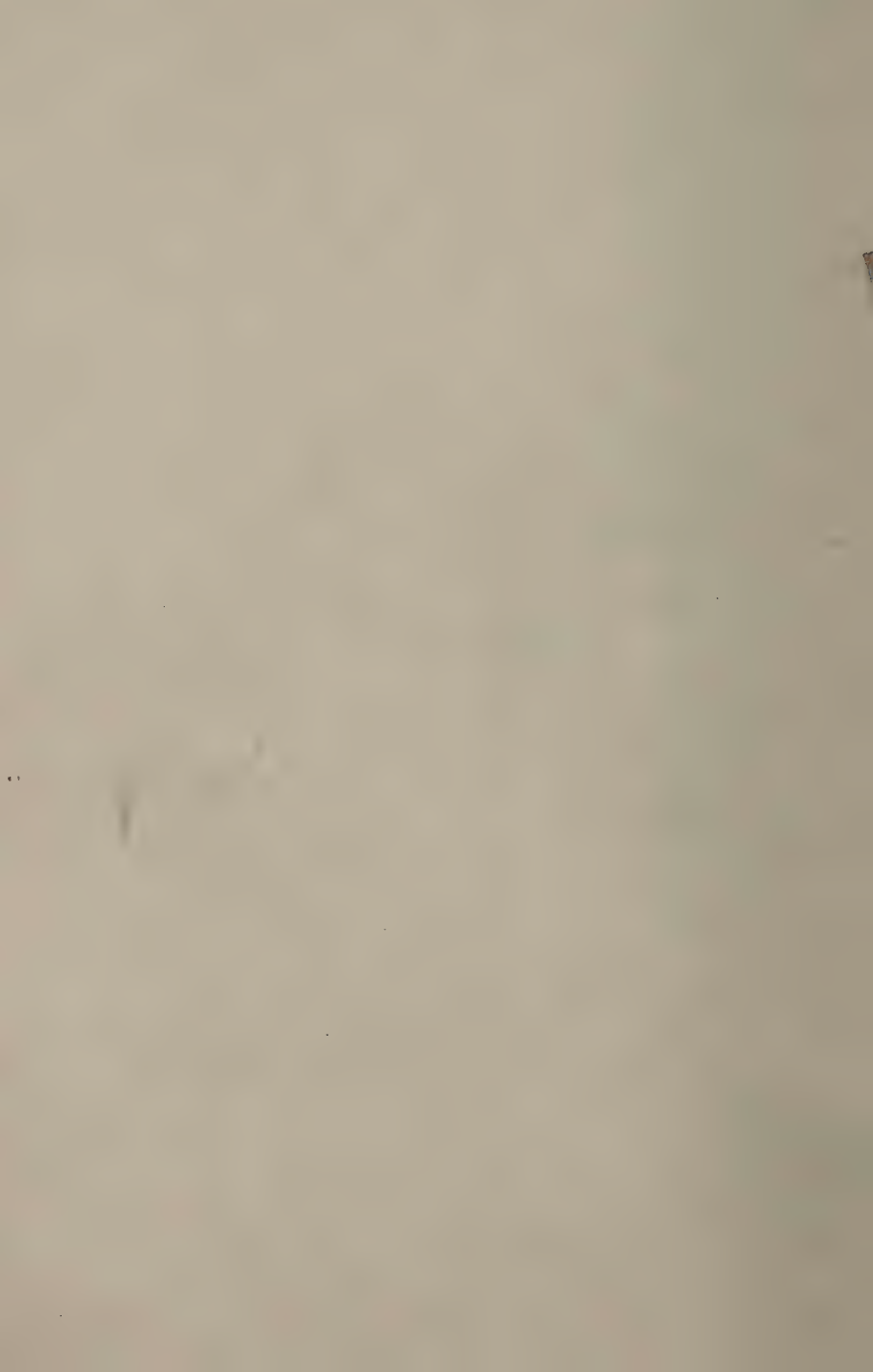
## RECEIPTS.

Fines collected .....	\$149.39
Messenger fees.....	.77
Finding Lists and Supplements sold..	14.79
	<hr/>
	\$164.95

## EXPENDITURES.

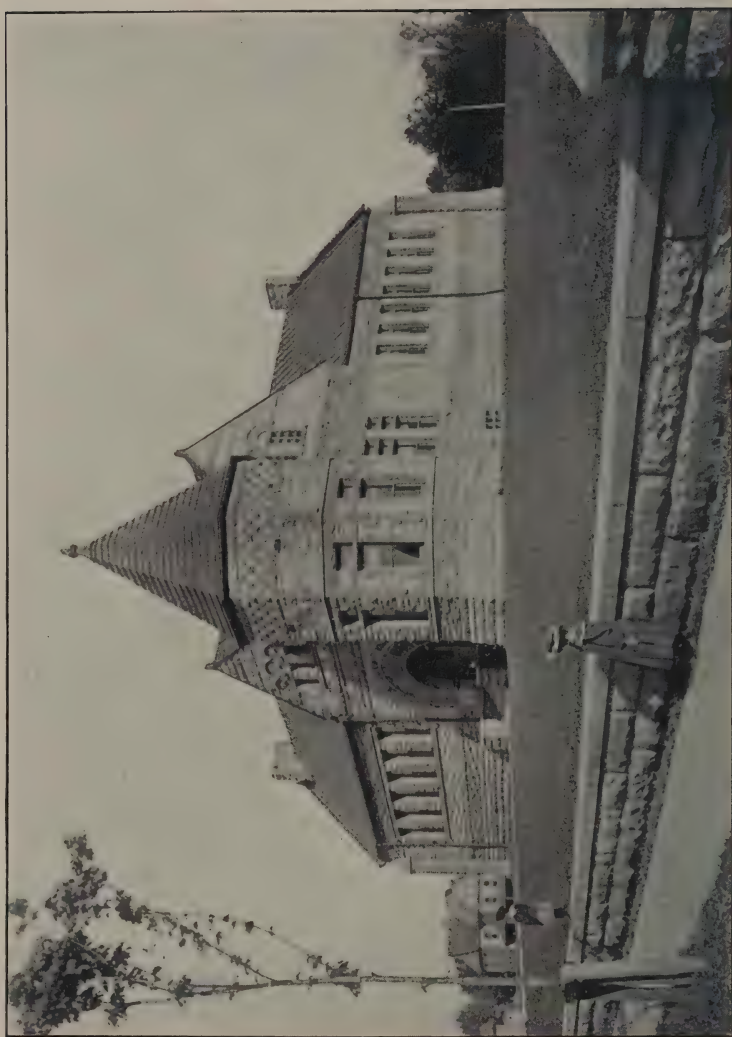
For supplies, express, freight, postage and miscellaneous expenses, which were given in detail in quarterly re- ports.....	\$ 67.87
Balance paid Secretary .....	97.08
	<hr/>
	\$164.95







LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.









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LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS.

# THE JAMES PRENDERGAST FREE LIBRARY

JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK.



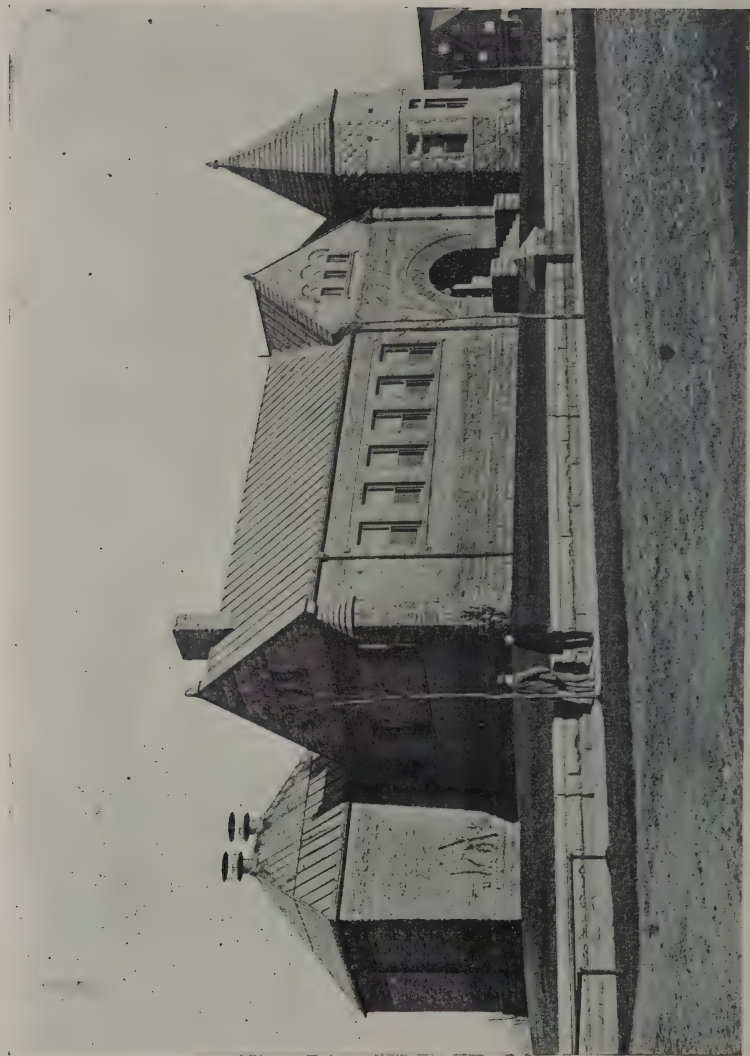
NINTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF LIBRARIAN

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1900.





LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY of ILLINOIS.



THE JAMES PRENDERGAST FREE LIBRARY.  
*View from south-west, showing Art Gallery.*

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARIAN

OF THE

James Prendergast Free Library,

For the Year Ending May 31, 1900.

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JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK.

## OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES.

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### Officers.

President, SOLOMON JONES.  
Vice President, LUCIUS B. WARNER.  
Secretary, ELEAZER GREEN.  
Treasurer, DANIEL H. POST.

### Trustees.

FRANK E. GIFFORD,      ROBERT N. MARVIN,  
ELEAZER GREEN,      DANIEL H. POST,  
SOLOMON JONES,      WILLIAM H. PROUDFIT,  
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                         DANIEL H. POST.

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### LIBRARIAN.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE.

### Assistants.

LUELLA D. FREEMAN.      HATTIE B. LOVE.

### Janitor.

FRANK RANDALL.





## THE JAMES PRENDERGAST FREE LIBRARY.

### Historical.

THE James Prendergast Free Library was created by the gifts and bequests of Alexander T. Prendergast and Mary Norton Prendergast, his wife, as a lasting memorial to their

son, James Prendergast, grandson of the founder of the city.

The Hon. James Prendergast died, intestate, December 21, 1879, aged 31 years, but left written memoranda regarding the disposition he wished made of his property, a portion of which he requested be used to found and maintain a free public library. This request his parents scrupulously carried out, adding large sums from their own possessions, and also providing for the establishment of an art gallery. The value of the property thus devoted to the good of the people of Jamestown is now estimated at \$350,000.00.

The James Prendergast Library Association was incorporated January 29, 1880, and a board of seven trustees to serve during life was named, any vacancies occurring upon the board to be filled by vote of the remaining members. The first president of the association, William C. J. Hall, died in October, 1887, and the first treasurer, Robert Newland, in October, 1891. Prof. Samuel G. Love, the first librarian, died in December, 1893. The library building was completed and dedicated December 1, 1891.

*To the President and Board of Trustees of the James  
Prendergast Library Association of Jamestown,  
New York.*

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to present the ninth annual report of the James Prendergast Free Library, for the year ending May 31, 1900.

Owing to the fact that the annual meeting of the Association is required by its charter to be held on the eighteenth day of June, James Prendergast's birthday, it was decided during the current year to change the date of the librarian's annual report from June 30 to May 31, in order to make the library year coincide with the fiscal year. Consequently the report herewith presented represents but eleven months of library activity.

### **The Use of the Library.**

The detailed statistics of registration, circulation and general use of the library will be found appended in tabular form, and only a few general results are indicated here. During the year (11 months) the library was open 277 days, or every week day except holidays. For the first time it was kept open for the regular hours during the month of July, in 1899. Over one thousand visitors were then in attendance on the Art Gallery alone, which demonstrated clearly the wisdom of keeping the building open regularly during the summer months, both to accomodate the large number of summer visitors, as well as our own people.

In view of this use of the library in the summer, it has been deemed advisable for these months to keep the building open continuously from 9:00 A. M. until the closing hour every evening, thus reversing the plan of many institutions to have shorter hours in summer. But the peculiar local conditions make this course advisable for us.

The general use of the library and the amount of attention demanded from the assistants has been fully as great as in past years, though for reasons cited below, there has been a small decrease in the circulation.

### **Registration and Circulation.**

The number of registered borrowers at the close of the period covered by this report was 3516. The number added during the year was 1214; 746 of this number were new card holders, and 468 renewals. Under the system of registration required, the total number of registered borrowers represents only actual card-holders in good and regular standing.

The number of volumes sent into the homes of the people during the year (11 months) was 55,606, or an average circulation of 200 books per day, a slight decrease (6 books per day) over the previous year. Other libraries are showing a similar slight decrease, as witness the following from a recent number of the Library Journal. "One library reports a steady contraction in the number of books issued, although the number of readers has increased;

another notes an increase in every class except fiction, though the total circulation shows the loss of a thousand volumes. In several reports it is stated that the decrease in circulation has been offset by the development of school use. It is worth while for librarians to make special investigation, and report on the question whether a decrease in circulation is not in most cases a positively wholesome sign, coming from the direct stimulus of reference work, and from less hasty and more useful home reading."

These causes for a decreased circulation apply with equal force to our own library. A detailed comparison of the circulation for several years, proves that fiction, including juvenile fiction, shows a decided falling off, while the percentage of useful books read, shows a corresponding increase. This fact, together with the increase in all departments of reference work, gives ground for the belief that better books are being read and more care bestowed on those that are selected by borrowers.

A chief local cause for the small decrease in circulation is the general prevalence of good times. When people have steady employment they have less time for reading. The addition to the library of the public school and the improved facilities offered by it, no doubt also tend to decrease our circulation of books which are especially auxiliary to the work of the various departments of the school. In fact the large percentage of school use that most librarians report, and the special effort that



these same librarians make to supply the schools with books, is reduced to a minimum in our library, because of a well equipped school library which meets these wants.

The High School library, numbering now some 4000 volumes was organized in 1868 and has received constant accessions since that time, and always with a view of building up a library for school use. It is advantageously located in a well appointed room in the wing of the new High School building, where the pupils of both the Grammar and High Schools have ready access to it during school hours, when a librarian is in attendance. Collections of books aggregating over 2000 volumes, suitable for the different grades, are also kept in the grammar school rooms and in the ward schools. Since the schools are so well furnished with books from their own funds, this library has small need to do other than supplementary work for them which it does in large measure.

When it is considered that there is no large school circulation in this library, it is noteworthy that the circulation has reached and maintains so high a figure as 55,606.

### **The Books of the Library.**

The total number of books in the library is 16,113 Of this number 9,048 are in the circulating department, 3,187 are in the reference department, and 3,878 are Public Documents. There have been added during the year 400 books in the circulating department, 252 in the

reference department, and 1,643 in the department of Public Documents. During the year 5 books were lost and 89 discarded as worn out, an extremely small number to be "charged off" in a year, in the work of a library circulating over 5,000 volumes a month. The effort has been made to have the additions to the library of the best new books in all classes and to keep "up to date." Tables 2 and 3 will show how many books have been added in each class. The total gain to the library including public documents was 2,295, a greater increase than in any recent year.

### **Binding.**

During the year 345 books have been rebound at a cost of \$123.94, an average of 35 cents per volume. Much expense is spared the Library Association by the repairs that are made on the books at the library. The attendants keep a careful supervision over them, and have acquired much facility in their renewals. The adage "a stitch in time saves nine" had never better application than when referring to this method of prolonging the life of a book by care at the moment it is needed.

### **Reference Department and Reading Room.**

The number of persons using the reference room during the year (11 months) was 19,074, of which number 1,547 were students. The classification into students is however somewhat arbitrary and no doubt underestimates the use which is made of the room for reference pur-

poses. Both the circulating and reference departments, and also the document room, are all brought under contribution in order to afford aid to those seeking to do reference work here.

### **The Study Clubs.**

The work of the library in furthering the numerous literary clubs of the city has been productive of warm expressions of gratitude for the aid extended to the members individually and to the clubs. Special reference lists were prepared, which were not merely lists of books on the general topics for the year, but gave specific references on the subject of each paper. All these lists have been filed and are frequently used in other connections. Besides these lists, the librarian, on request, has given talks explaining how to use the library, or on kindred subjects.

Especial acknowledgment must again be made of the very great assistance afforded by the Traveling Libraries issued by the Home Education Department of the University of the State of New York. The local clubs also feel a sense of personal obligation to Mr. C. A. Cutter, of the Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass., for his courtesy in loaning them many rare photographs from the large and valuable collection of that library.

### **Genealogy, Local History and the Revolution.**

Quite the most important departure made during the past year from a purely library standpoint was in the establishment of a de-

partment of genealogy, local history, and revolutionary history.

A special effort was made to secure the general works in genealogy, which it should be said are difficult to obtain and expensive, being often rare and out of print. The collection includes among others, Savage's Genealogical Dictionary in 4 volumes, which was named first in lists of desirable works, by all the authorities that were consulted; also American Ancestry in 11 volumes; Genealogical Notes of New York and New England Families, Bond's Genealogies and History of Watertown, Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth, Long Island Genealogies, Calendar of Wills—New York State, Early Massachusetts Marriages, Early Connecticut Marriages, and Glenn's Colonial Mansions. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, complete in 53 volumes, from 1847 to 1899, has been ordered for this department. A complete set is rare and the library is fortunate in securing this one.

Besides the books named, an important contribution of genealogical works and town histories mentioned under the head of "Gifts," make an addition to this department which, with the material that was already on the shelves, will be of great service to any one engaging in the fascinating study of genealogy. Volumes of local history are also necessary to this study, and all that could be gathered together in regard to our town, city, county and state history

has been added, supplemented by the history of other states.

The study of genealogy is so closely connected with revolutionary history, that books of this class could not be overlooked, and have been supplied both by gift and purchase. The inspiration came from the impulse given by members of the patriotic societies as well as from the interest that is developing the country over for genealogical study. Among the books most sought in this department, are the New York States Archives, vol. 1, containing the roster of the state troops in the revolution, New York in the Revolution as Colony and State, Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War, Saffell's Records of the Revolutionary War, Hinman's Connecticut in the Revolution, Carrington's Battles of the American Revolution, Hadden's Journal and Orderly Book, Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution, and the latest year books of the Sons of the Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution.

All the volumes on genealogy, local history, and the revolution have been grouped together in the reference department and a special catalogue of them is in print, as a supplement to the finding list.

### **Public Documents.**

The number of public documents which the library has received since it became a depository increased to such an extent that a special doc-



ument room has been fitted up in the basement. This room is 28 feet by 55 feet, which affords ample space for this constantly growing department. The walls and ceilings have been calcimined; the room is well lighted by day, while electric lights have been provided for evening use. Neat book stacks have been supplied, and tables and chairs have been added.

In all respects this is a valuable library in itself, containing 3,878 volumes. It numbers the Congressional or "Sheep-bound" documents, complete from the 28th Congress (1843-44) which are arranged by "Check-list" numbers and are easily and quickly found; the Annals of Congress, Register of Debates, Congressional Globe and Congressional Record are complete on the shelves. There is a full file of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, consisting of 126 volumes, and now difficult to obtain. All the publications of the Patent Office are complete, and are frequently consulted.

There are besides many state papers and publications of the various departments which are rare and valuable, and all are systematically arranged. The importance of such a collection to the entire region is recognized by those who have occasion to consult it.

### **Gifts.**

During the past year the library has been well remembered by its friends. The most conspicuous and elegant gift is the elaborate combina-

tion steel filing case, which came as a Christmas present from the Art Metal Construction Co. The case, which nearly fills one side of the librarian's office, is most artistically finished in olive green enamel with oxydized brass trimmings. It is supplied with a complete assortment of compressing and letter files, roller shelves, lockers and drawers, and is a marvel of economy of space and convenience of access, and affords a fire proof storage for the documents and valuable papers of the library association, as well as those necessary to library management.

From individuals many valuable books have been received. Mr. Elial F. Hall of New York has been a contributor of numerous volumes, including 70 volumes of law books, 65 volumes on educational and literary subjects in the classical and modern tongues, many purchased abroad, and 57 volumes of travel and works on politics. Mr. Hall is a man of scholarly tastes and a contributor to professional and general literature, and testifies his regard for his early home by these gifts to its library.

The Hon. James J. Myers, speaker of the Massachusetts legislature, sent a most desirable contribution to the revolutionay history department in the first six volumes of Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War, and has placed the library on the list to receive the other volumes of the set as published. Speaker Myers has a warm interest in the library as a friend of its founder, Hon. James

Prendergast, and a pupil of Prof. Love, its first librarian. He has also given the library Bradford's History of "Plimoth Plantation."

In the department of genealogy an important contribution was received from Mr. Lewis Hall. Mr. Hall is the pioneer student of genealogy in our midst and the gift of his collection started the library's genealogical section. This comprised largely the histories of certain Massachusetts towns in which the families prominent in the early settlement of Jamestown and southern Chautauqua took their rise. Notable among these towns were Mendon, Milford and Medfield. Mr. Hall has given also the genealogical register of the towns of Sherborn and Holliston, Mass., Austin's Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island, the Nelson, Cheney and Kneeland family genealogies.

Other gifts of books belonging in the department of genealogy are the Memoir of Hayward Augustus Harvey, given by Dr. Thomas W. Harvey, the Wight Genealogy, by Hon. W. W. Wight, the Hazeltine Genealogy, by Mr. F. H. Hazelton, the Dickinson Reunion, by Mr. Edward F. Dickinson, the Rawson Genealogy and Bemus History, by Capt. Daniel H. Post.

It is to be hoped that the example set by these donors of books may be followed, and that the beginning made in this department by purchase and gift may be constantly added to. It should be remembered by owners of valuable books on family history that the reference department of the library is absolutely their

safest storehouse. Safe from the ravages of fire and borrowers, they are always accessible and their treasures are at the disposal of all.

### **"Book Day."**

On December 6 and 7, 1899, the library held a book exhibition, following a custom already observed by many libraries. The exhibit included the latest invoices of new books for the library, supplemented by displays from the local book stores, the latter including the sumptuously bound and profusely illustrated "holiday editions." The exhibition attracted wide attention and drew many visitors to inspect the latest and most finished specimens of the book makers' art. The general prevalence of illustration and the artistic bindings made the display unusually interesting. "Book day" will hereafter be an annual feature.

### **Book Plate.**

The library during the year adopted a new form for its book plate. The design is circular with the words "The James Prendergast Free Library, Jamestown, New York," surrounding the coat of arms of the Prendergast family and their motto,—*"In hoc signo vinces."* A place for the class and number of the book is provided, and the source from which it was derived—by gift or purchase. The design is extremely appropriate for a book plate and is an added means of perpetuating the memory of the family to whose benefactions we are in-

debted for the library. This device will hereafter appear on all publications of the library, as catalogues, supplements, reports, etc.

A new embossing stamp has also been adopted for use upon the pages of all books which are the property of the library; it is a mark of identification of the books, with the least defacing possible.

### **In Conclusion.**

With each added year there is a growing impression of the importance of the work of this institution to the inhabitants of the city. The librarian feels grateful for suggestions received from any quarter that may increase the usefulness of the library to the people it is designed to benefit. It will be a source of encouragement to feel that, without reference to the work of other institutions or comparison with what they accomplish, this institution is meeting the hopes of its founders by being of the greatest possible service to the people of Jamestown.

I feel it a pleasure to testify to the co-operation and interest of the Trustees, and the faithful services of my assistants in the common work in which we are all engaged.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE,  
Librarian.



## Tables.

TABLE 1.

### The Use of the Library.

Number of days library was open,	-	277
Number of borrowers registered,		
New card holders,	- - -	746
Renewals,	- - -	468
Total registration for the year,		1,214
Average daily registration,	-	4
Total number borrowers registered,		3,516
Number volumes lent for home reading,		55,606
Average daily circulation,	- -	200
Largest circulation on any one day,	-	524
Smallest circulation on any one day,	-	69
Number persons using main reading		
room,	- - - - -	11,861
Number children using children's room,		5,686
Total number readers,	- - -	17,547
Average daily attendance in reading		
room,	- - - - -	63
Number students using reference de-		
partment,	- - - - -	1,527
Average daily attendance of students,		5
Number persons visiting art gallery,		5,758
Average daily number visitors,	-	21

**TABLE 2.**  
**Books in the Circulating Department.**

Class	1899	Lost	Dis- carded	Added	1900
General Works,	546			44	590
Philosophy,	185			5	190
Religion,	255			8	263
Sociology,	370			14	384
Philology,	14			0	14
Science,	384			8	392
Useful Arts,	299			12	311
Fine Arts,	261			16	277
Literature,	1152			25	1177
History, including					
Travel and Biography,	2176	1		90	2265
Fiction,	2056	3	64	109	2098
Juvenile Fiction,	750	1	25	61	785
Juvenile Classified,	294			8	302
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total,	8742	5	89	400	9048

**TABLE 3.**

**Books in the Reference Department.**

Class	1899	Added	1900
General Works,	631	26	657
Philosophy,	8	0	8
Religion,	152	0	152
Sociology,	490	124	614
Philology,	49	8	57
Science,	284	2	286
Useful Arts,	286	7	293
Fine Arts,	142	1	143
Literature,	390	22	412
History,	503	62	565
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total,	2935	252	3187

**SUMMARY.**

	1899	Lost	Dis- carded	Added	1900
Circulating Dep't,	8738	5	89	400	9048
Reference Dep't,	2935	0	0	252	3187
Public Documents,	2235	0	0	1643	3878
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total - -	13908	5	89	2295	16113

TABLE 4.

## Monthly Circulation of Books for the Year Ending May 31, 1900.

SUBJECTS.	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mch	Apr	May	Total	%
Fiction.....	1588	2321	2681	2821	2930	2787	3226	2972	3484	2740	2587	30137	.5420
Juvenile Fiction.....	485	734	835	1057	1109	1084	1180	1055	1400	1113	974	11026	.1988
History, including Travel & Biography	282	208	317	305	436	395	470	629	573	356	326	4297	.0790
Literature.....	92	93	114	216	214	218	254	250	248	150	153	2002	.0370
Fine Arts.....	63	68	120	132	124	88	130	136	137	53	77	1128	.0201
Useful Arts.....	44	22	41	46	44	36	71	66	54	50	47	521	.0099
Science .....	44	46	63	68	39	64	90	73	79	73	80	719	.0130
Philology.....	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	11	.0002
Sociology.....	41	27	43	68	82	75	92	78	71	65	51	693	.0107
Religion.....	13	13	19	19	17	19	25	23	29	28	18	223	.0040
Philosophy.....	17	13	26	17	36	26	27	22	28	24	12	248	.0043
General Works.....	268	250	319	380	460	421	597	526	602	379	299	4501	.0810
Totals.....	2937	3795	4582	5129	5492	5214	6162	5831	6707	5032	4625	55606	1.0000

**TABLE 5.**  
**Receipts and Expenditures.**

The following are the receipts and expenditures from funds passing through the librarian's hands, July 1, 1899, to May 31, 1900.

RECEIPTS.

Fines collected.....	\$152 36
Messenger fees .....	20
Finding lists and supplements sold....	6 80
	<hr/>
	\$159 36

EXPENDITURES.

For supplies, express, freight, postage and miscellaneous expenses, which were given in detail in quarterly re- ports, with vouchers.....	\$ 79 22
Balance paid Secretary.....	80 14
	<hr/>
	\$159 36



## Gifts to the James Prendergast Free Library.

July 1, 1899—May 31, 1900.

	Vols.	Pams.
Aguilar Free Library, New York.....	....	1
American Union League Society, New York	1	....
Amherst (Mass.) College Library.....	....	3
Anderson, O. W., Jamestown, N. Y.....	1	....
Anti-Imperialist League, Boston.....	....	5
Art Metal Construction Co., Jamestown, N. Y. Steel Filing Case.		
Augustana Journal, Rock Island, Ill.....	....	22
Avon Club, Jamestown, N. Y.....	....	1
Berea College, Berea, Ky.....	....	2
Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Mass....	....	3
Boston (Mass.) Public Library .....	....	13
Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, Me..	....	1
Brown, H. Le F., Jamestown, N. Y.....	1	3
Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pa.....	....	1
Buffalo (N. Y.) Public Library.....	1	4
Buffalo (N. Y.) Seminary.....	....	1
Carnegie Free Library, Allegheny, Pa.....	....	1
Carnegie Library, Homestead, Pa.....	....	3
Carnegie Library, Pittsburg, Pa.....	....	11
Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Free Public Library..	....	1
Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y.....	....	1
College Settlements Association, Boston....	....	9

	Vols.	Pams.
Columbia University, New York.....	I	4
Columbus (Ohio) Public School Library....	....	I
Crofut, S. W., Hartford, Conn.....	I	....
Dayton (Ohio) Public Library.....	....	2
Detroit (Mich.) Public Library.....	I	I
Dickinson, E. F., Jamestown, N. Y.....	I	....
Eau Claire (Wis ) Public Library.....	....	I
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md..	....	I
Erie (Pa.) Public Library.....	....	I
Evanston (Ill.) Free Public Library.....	....	I
Farmer, J. E. ....	I	....
Fletcher Free Library. Burlington, Vt.....	....	I
Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.....	....	I
Fortnightly Club, Jamestown, N. Y.....	....	I
Gloversville (N. Y.) Free Library....	....	I
Grosvenor Library, Buffalo, N. Y.....	....	II
Hall, E. F., New York.....	192	....
Hall, Lewis, Jamestown, N. Y.....	8	I
Halsey, F. W., New York.....	I	....
Hartford (Conn.) Public Library.....	....	II
Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Mass.....	....	2
Harvey, Dr. T. W., Orange, N. J.....	I	....
Hazelton, F. H., Portland, Me.....	I	....
Herring, G. G., Pittsburg, Pa.....	....	7
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, Mass....	I	....
Hyde, F. W., Jamestown, N. Y.....	I	....
Indian Rights Association, Philadelphia....	....	3
Jamestown (N. Y.) City Government.....	....	4
—— High School.....	....	2
Joseph Burnett Co., Boston.....	I	....
Journal Printing Co., Jamestown, N. Y., File of the Evening Journal and Twice- a-Week, for binding.		

	Vols.	Pams.
Lake Mohonk Arbitration Conference.....	....	1
Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, R. R..	....	3
Leipziger, H. M., New York.....	....	2
Library Bureau, New York.....	1	....
Littlefield, G. E., Boston.....	....	2
Long Island Historical Society.....	1	1
Massachusetts Highway Commission.....	1	....
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bos- ton.....	....	1
Montclair (N. J.) Public Library.....	....	1
Morgan, W. J., Albany, N. Y.....	1	....
Myers, Hon. J. J., Boston.....	6	....
New Century Art Club, Jamestown, N. Y..	....	1
New York State Board of Charities.....	3	2
—— Board of Health.....	2	....
—— College of Forestry, Cornell Univer- sity.....	....	1
—— Engineer.....	2	....
—— Factory Inspector.....	2	....
—— Library.....	5	12
New York State Federation of Women's Clubs.....	....	2
Newark (N. J.) Free Public Library.....	....	9
Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio.....	....	1
Pawtucket (R. I.) Free Public Library.....	....	1
Post, D. H., Jamestown, N. Y.....	4	....
St. Joseph (Mo.) Public Library.....	....	1
St. Louis (Mo.) Public Library.....	....	2
Salem (Mass.) Public Library.....	....	12
Scranton (Pa.) Public Library.....	....	4
Smithsonian Institution.....	3	8
Sons of the American Revolution, N. Y. So- ciety.....	1	2

	Vols.	Pams.
Sons of the Revolution, N. Y. Society.....	1	....
Sound Currency, New York.....	....	18
Syracuse (N. Y.) Central Library.....	....	1
Towle Mfg. Co., Newburyport, Mass.....	1	....
United States Government.....	1643	940
Universal Brotherhood Lodge, Jamestown, N. Y.....	4	....
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia...	1	....
University of the State of New York, Albany	1	8
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.....	....	1
Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.....	....	1
Whitney, W. R., Boston.....	....	4
Wight, W. W.....	1	12
Wisconsin Free Library Commission.....	....	12
Worcester (Mass.) Free Public Library.....	....	1
Yale University, New Haven, Conn.....	....	2
Young, J. M., Jamestown, N. Y.....	1	....
Young Women's Christian Association, New York.....	....	1















